

From: NCEH/ATSDR News Clips (CDC)
Sent: Wed 8/12/2015 6:59:49 PM
Subject: NCEH/ATSDR News Clips for Wednesday, August 12, 2015
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Summary

 [Today's Articles](#)



1. The EPA Is Working With Several Federal Agencies to Clean Up Its Self-Created Disaster ATSDR Named

Government Executive -- 8/11/2015 Internet

The Health and Human Services Department has enlisted its U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to assist local officials in coordinating the public health response. ATSDR said it would be available to physicians in the area with questions on the health risks.

2. BNSF Railway Fined \$86,000 for Dumping Toxic Chemicals in Washington Waters ATSDR Reference

Clapway -- 8/11/2015 Brooklyn, New York

...according to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), exposure to large amounts of creosotes can cause a myriad of health-related issues, from stomach aches, to chemical burns, liver problems, and in rare cases, death.

3. Restrictions to remain for rivers hardest hit by Colorado mine waste spill

Reuters -- 8/11/2015 New York, NY

New Mexico officials joined Colorado on Tuesday in declaring an emergency due to toxic wastewater spewing from an abandoned gold mine, a spill that prompted authorities to close two rivers to drinking water and irrigation intakes for at least another week.

4. Colorado Businesses Struggle As Toxic Waste Flows Through Animas River

NPR -- 8/11/2015 Washington, DC

It's been a shock for everybody here, as you can imagine. There's been a very strong emotional response from our community. Businesses have been affected in various ways, some not at all. Some have closed, clearly. If your livelihood is on the river, you are temporarily shut down right now. And hopefully, they will be receiving some assistance and can weather this through and get open to take advantage of the remainder of the summer season.

5. Toxic mines taint the West's waterways

USA TODAY -- 8/12/2015 McLean, VA

The shocking mining spill that temporarily turned the Animas River bright orange exposed a dirty secret of the West: Tens of thousands of old mines may be leaching toxic waste into the nation's waterways.

6. Revealed: Canadian government spent millions on secret tar sands advocacy

Guardian -- 8/11/2015 London, UK

Conservative government used public money on outreach campaign to counter criticism of controversial Alberta tar sands

7. Pope Francis Joins Battle Against Transgenic Crops

IPS News -- 8/11/2015 Rome

A few centuries ago, the biotechnology industry would have been able to buy a papal bull to expiate its sins and grant it redemption. But in his encyclical on the environment, "Laudato Si", Pope Francis condemns genetically modified organisms (GMOs) without leaving room for a pardon.

8. Rio Tinto loses court appeal against asbestosis compensation ruling to dying worker Zorko Zabic (Australia)

ABC Radio Australia -- 8/12/2015 Melbourne, Australia

"This decision will pave the way for the many asbestos victims in the Northern Territory who have previously been denied justice to come forward and seek redress for themselves and their families," he said.

9. Scientists work to make crispy, tasty fried potatoes a little healthier

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel -- 8/11/2015 Milwaukee, WI

Long known as an industrial toxin, the chemical acrylamide was surprisingly found in low amounts in an extensive range of food products in 2002.

Combined, French fries and potato chips contribute 38% of the acrylamide in the average diet, according to Food and Drug Administration estimates.

Cereal, cookies, coffee and toast together account for another 25%.

10. North Dakota health officials vote to loosen rules for radioactive oilfield waste dumping

Daily Reporter -- 8/11/2015 Greenfield, IN

The higher 50 picocurie level is still safe for humans and the environment,

said Dave Glatt, chief of the environmental health section of the North Dakota Department of Health, though he acknowledged that raising the threshold "is an emotional issue for a lot of folks."

11. What to do about the antidepressants, antibiotics and other drugs in our water

Ensis Magazine -- 8/11/2015 University of Minnesota
As pharmaceuticals taint rivers and lakes, scientists search for solutions.

12. NM gets another mess, and sound bites, from DC Editorial

Albuquerque Journal -- 8/12/2015 NM
Presumably McCarthy will shower, brush her teeth and have a drink of water someplace where it's safe to do that, then make appropriately concerned comments about the newest mess the federal government has gotten New Mexico into before returning to a life where you don't have to think twice before turning on the tap.

13. How the West's Drought Is Affecting Lung Health

U.S. News & World Report Magazine -- 8/11/2015
What residents of California and other areas under siege can do to reduce their risk.

14. Can America cope with a resurgence of tropical disease?

Medical Xpress -- 8/11/2015 PhysOrg.com
Diseases once associated with 'elsewhere' are increasingly being found in the southern states of the USA. Infectious disease physician Peter Hotez was so concerned that he founded a school of tropical medicine at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, well within the territory that Hotez argues is one of the world's ten hotspots for so-called neglected tropical diseases.

15. EPA: We misjudged pressure in gold mine before spill

Daily Times -- 8/11/2015 Farmington, NM
"We were very careful," he said, adding that he has 28 years of mining experience. ...However, the team removed too much material from the mine's roof, which caused the rupture, Griswold said.

16. Toxicologist Skeptical Of Early Animas River Reports, Metals Are 'Long Term Poisons'

KCNC News -- 8/12/2015 Denver, CO
"They're a problem because they're long term poisons. And low levels consumed over a long period of time create serious problems, particularly arsenic, produce very serious problems," said Teitlebaum.

17. Chickenpox vaccination does increase shingles cases, but mainly in young adults

ScienceDaily -- 8/11/2015 Rockville, MD
Study findings are in favour of universal childhood vaccination

18. Loss of altruism (and a body plan) without a loss of genes

ScienceDaily -- 8/11/2015 Rockville, MD
How evolutionary biology in ants doesn't play by the rules ...Some ants are "workerless social parasites" whose queens exploit the worker force of other

species by invading and setting up shop in their colonies.

19. Coca-Cola: 'Energy Balance,' Not Calories, is the Answer to Obesity

Food Manufacturing -- 8/11/2015 Madison, WI

...new group founded to research the interplay between physical activity and diet. ...Diet is not necessarily the main culprit, they say. ...say that high-calorie intake including fast food do not necessarily explain the epidemic of obesity and the constant increase of Type 2 Diabetes...

20. Mexico Bans Free Baby Formula for Newborns at Hospitals

Time Magazine -- 8/12/2015 New York

Mexico has banned the giveaway of free baby formula at hospitals, so that new mothers will be encouraged to breastfeed instead. Baby formula will still be available at stores and if requested by a doctor, the BBC reported.

21. Saturated fat isn't linked with increased risk of death: study

CBC/Radio-Canada -- 8/12/2015 Ottawa, Canada

Saturated fats come from animal products such as milk, butter, meat and egg yolks ...saturated fat is not associated with an increased risk of death, heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes. ..."I don't know that we found anything new about saturated fats," he said. "But we did learn how bad saturated fats are depending on what we compare them to."

22. Cooling tower harbors Legionnaire's disease

KRMG News -- 8/12/2015 Tulsa, OK

A manufacturing plant that produces inhaled medications is shut down after discovering the bacteria that causes Legionnaire's disease. ...The plant produces inhaled drugs like Advair, a drug for asthma.

23. The 'Nest of Europe' comes to America

E&E Publishing, LLC -- 8/11/2015 Washington, D.C.

...gadgets that manage heating and cooling in homes with the goal of saving energy. Based in Germany...sometimes called the "Nest of Europe" because its high-tech and minimalist aesthetic is similar to Nest, the leading U.S. smart-thermostat company that is owned by Google.

24. Animal advocacy group targets cat and dog research using novel crowdsourcing campaign

ScienceInsider -- 8/12/2015 AAAS, Washington, DC

The new strategy could cause a headache for animal researchers across the country, says Michael Halpern of Union of Concerned Scientists, who authored a report earlier this year on activists using open records laws to target academics in hot-button fields such as climate change and genetically modified foods.

25. Findings show Asia produces twice as much mercury emissions as previously thought

PhysOrg.com -- 8/12/2015 Internet

Once mercury is emitted into the atmosphere from the smokestacks of power plants, the pollutant has a complicated trajectory; even after it settles

onto land and sinks into oceans, mercury can be re-emitted back into the atmosphere repeatedly.

26. Nuclear restart highlights government dilemma over lack of waste disposal sites

Japan Times, The -- 8/11/2015 Tokyo

...Japan can no longer ignore the elephant in the room: where is the country's highly radioactive nuclear waste going?

27. 'Beyond Unacceptable': Judge OKs Uranium Mine at Grand Canyon

AlterNet -- 8/12/2015 San Francisco, CA

Slamming ruling, conservationists warn of irreversible contamination of the canyon's underground aquifers. ...Cleaning Up Contamination? Next to Impossible

28. A simple tableware switch could reduce exposure to a potentially harmful substance

Terra Daily -- 8/7/2015 Gerringong, NSW, Australia

...studies suggest that heat and acid can cause melamine from dinnerware to seep into food and potentially cause harmful health effects. ...suggested that even small amounts could increase the risk of urinary stones or kidney problems, and one major source of the material is tableware.

29. Rio sailors embark on anti-pollution protest

Agence France-Presse (AFP) -- 8/8/2015 Paris, FR

Water quality in Guanabara has become the main concern over Brazil's preparations for the (Olympics). The city promises safe conditions, but environmental activists say the stunningly scenic Guanabara Bay is effectively a giant sewer.

30. Toxic River Spill Exposes Lack of Communication Between EPA and States

Los Angeles Times -- 8/12/2015 Los Angeles, CA

Officials for New Mexico's San Juan County Office of Emergency Management said they learned of the oncoming rush of wastewater laden with lead, arsenic and other heavy metals not from the EPA, but in a newspaper in nearby Durango, Colo.

31. California to throw adults in JAIL if they refuse government-mandated vaccines

NaturalNews.com -- 8/10/2015 Taichung City, Taiwan

Senate Bill 792, also known as the "Day care facilities: immunizations: exemptions" ...alongside SB 277, which eliminates personal, philosophical and religious vaccine exemptions for children who attend both private and public schools in the Golden State. ...If passed, SB 792 would represent the first adult vaccine mandate in the U.S. that disallows exemptions for personal reasons, and that threatens criminal penalties for those who fail or refuse to comply.

32. This video about the aging pipeline below the Great Lakes

should be this summer's top horror flick

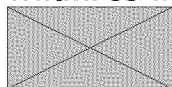
Grist Magazine -- 8/11/2015 Seattle, WA


...a 62-year-old pipeline running between Lake Huron and Lake Michigan along the Straits of Mackinac. The pipeline was originally built to last 50 years and is in questionable shape, but don't worry — Enbridge says they have everything under control. Sure, the company had 800 spills between 1999 and 2010, according to Motherboard, and yes, one of those spills was the worst inland spill in U.S. history, causing more than 800,000 gallons of oil to spew into the Kalamazoo River in 2010.

33. Alaska's Intense Wildfire Seasons Could Be Felt Worldwide

TakePart -- 8/11/2015 Beverly Hills, California

With 5 million acres burned, 2015 becomes the second-worst year for wildfires in the state's history.



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